

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANA 04032 160934Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 CA-01 PPTE-00 DEAE-00
/020 W

-----105279 161123Z /11

R 160740Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5690

UNCLAS SANA 4032

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: NARCOTICS LAWS

REF: STATE 170187

1. REGRET POST CANNOT FULFILL YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.
2. GENERAL OPINION SEEMS TO BE THAT THERE ARE IN FACT
NO NARCOTICS LAWS. FOR CENTURIES AND EVEN IN THE LAST TWO
DECADES, THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN RULED BY DECREE. COURT
SYSTEMS AS WE KNOW THEM DO NOT EXIST.
3. VARIOUS DANGEROUS DRUGS ARE SOLD OVER THE COUNTER
WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION.
4. NATIVES GROW AND SELL A LEAF PRODUCT CALLED QAT
(PRONOUNCED GOT) WHICH IS A THRIVING LEGAL BUSINESS.
WHEN RELATIVELY LARGE QUANTITIES ARE CHEWED AND HELD IN THE
JAW IT REPORTEDLY HAS A MILD RELAXING EFFECT. SOLDIERS
ARE GIVEN RATIONS OF IT.
5. ALTHOUGH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE FORBIDDEN BY
RELIGIOUS LAW, THERE APPEARS TO BE AN INCREASING USE OF
IT. CUSTOMS AND SECURITY OFFICIALS ARE INEFFECTUAL
DUE TO LACK OF EXPERIENCE IN INSTITUTIONALIZED GOVERN-
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MENTAL CONTROLS.

6. THE INFORMATION YOU SEEK WOULD TAKE MONTHS TO DEVELOP
BY TRIAL AND ERROR INTERVIEWS IN ORDER TO HAVE SOME
REASONABLE EVALUATION OF THE SITUATION HERE. A CENTRAL
AUTHORITY WITH RELIABLE INFORMATION (VERBAL) DOES NOT
EXIST.

7. IN GENERAL, CRIMINAL OFFESNES ARE DEALT WITH IN A MOST
SEVERE FASHION AND WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS DOES NOT EXIST.
RANSOM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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